

FLOOD “CLEANING UP”



*Once the waters recede and it's safe to return
Home the "clean up" begins.*

Once you are inside, move about your home slowly. Have sufficient lighting to watch for loose floorboards, sagging ceiling plaster or floors and walls that are out of alignment. At first the clean-up-job may appear hopeless but don't let the sight of your damaged property cause you to immediately throw things away. Often times, many things can be salvaged if restoration steps are undertaken right away.

The “Drying Process”

If you have a basement, it should be drained and cleaned as soon as possible. However, don't pump the water out before the surrounding floodwaters have receded.

Flood engineers recommend that if you haven't yet evacuated and water begins to seep into your basement, don't drain it. Draining the water before the floodwaters have receded may cause foundation damage.

Open all doors, windows and closets, as well as all roof, attic, eaves and other vents. The more air you can get to circulate, the better. Any dirt, mud and debris should be promptly washed out.

Maintain building temperature at 15 degrees higher than the outside temperature. Be sure to have your heating system thoroughly checked prior to its use.

To dry areas between walls, remove the baseboards and drill or punch holes in the wall about two inches from the floor.

If you have carpeting, remove as much water as possible with a water vacuum. Then, loosen diagonal corners and install fans. Although not the fastest method, it will prevent shrinkage. Note: If your carpeting was exposed to saltwater it must be thoroughly flushed with fresh water prior to drying.

Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division